

Activity

Episode 14 28th May 2013

Mabo Day

Key Learning

Students will learn about the significance of Mabo as a political event and its impact on Australian society (past, present and future).

The Australian Curriculum

History / Historical Knowledge and Understanding / Australia as a Nation

Experiences of Australian democracy and citizenship, including the status and rights of Aboriginal people and/or Torres Strait Islanders, migrants, women, and children. (ACHHK114)









The contribution of individuals and groups, including Aboriginal people and/or Torres Strait Islanders and migrants, to the development of Australian society, for example in areas such as the economy, education, science, the arts, sport. (ACHHK116)











History / Historical Knowledge and Understanding / Community and Remembrance

Days and weeks celebrated or commemorated in Australia (including Australia Day, ANZAC Day, Harmony Week, National Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC week and National Sorry Day) and the importance of symbols and emblems. (ACHHK063)







Geography / Geographical Inquiry and Skills / Collecting, recording, evaluating and representing

Collect and record relevant geographical data and information, for example, by observing, by interviewing, conducting surveys and measuring, or from sources such as maps, photographs, satellite images, the media and the internet (ACHGS02







Collect and record relevant geographical data and information, using ethical protocols, from primary and secondary sources, for example, people, maps, plans, photographs, satellite images, statistical sources and reports (ACHGS041) (ACHGS034)















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1. What date do we celebrate Mabo day?

- What is the full name of the man who took on the Australian legal system to fight a land rights injustice?
- Where was Mabo born?

Discussion Questions

- Why was he fighting for the land rights of Murray Island?
- What does the term Terra Nullius mean?
- What was the name of the court case?
- 7. Mabo wasn't just fighting for the Meriam people. Why was Mabo an important case for Australian Indigenous people?
- What year did the High Court make its decision on the Mabo land rights case?
- How did this story make you feel?
- 10. Name three things you learnt from watching the Mabo Day BtN story.

History / Historical Skills / Explanation and communication

Develop texts, particularly narratives and descriptions, which incorporate source materials (ACHHS124) (ACHHS105)





Develop texts, particularly narratives (ACHHS086)



Cross-curriculum priorities / Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures

Country/Place

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities maintain a special connection to and responsibility for Country/Place throughout all of Australia.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have unique belief systems and are spiritually connected to the land, sea, sky and waterways.

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' ways of life are uniquely expressed through ways of being, knowing, thinking and doing.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have lived in Australia for tens of thousands of years and experiences can be viewed through historical, social and political lenses.

Australia acknowledges the significant contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people locally and

Cross-curriculum priorities / Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures



Activities

Remember and Understand

- Watch the BtN *Mabo Day* story and circle each of the following words and terms as you hear them. Record any unfamiliar words or terms that you hear.
- Ask students to write what they think is the meaning of each term. Swap definitions with a partner and ask them to add to or change the definition. Check these against the dictionary definition.

 	Find a definition	
Injustice	Rights	Native Title
Land rights	Terra Nullius	Crown Land

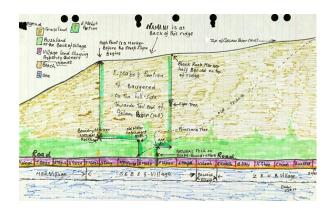
 After watching the Mabo Day story, facilitate a group discussion. Use the following question to guide your discussion.

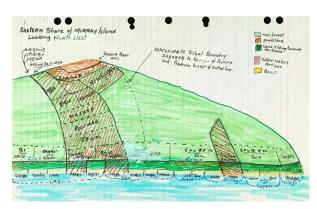
Discussion questions

- What is native title?
- Why was Mabo an important case?
- How did this story make you feel? Imagine if someone told you that your house wasn't yours.
 Describe your emotions.

Maps

Using Google Maps find Murray Island (known by the local Torres Strait Islanders as Mer Island) in the
Torres Strait region and display on your classroom interactive whiteboard. As a class look at the features
of Murray Island and compare these to Eddie Mabo's drawings. http://treasure-explorer.nla.gov.au/closerlook/text-analysis-and-comprehension-2-5







Ask students to conduct research into Murray Island choosing 1 or 2 of the following questions.

Research questions

- Where is Murray Island located?
- What is the land size of Murray Island?
- Describe the landscape of the island. Refer to the legend on Eddie Mabo's maps to identify rainforest, grassland and beach areas.
- What language do the people of Murray Island speak?
- Draw the Torres Strait Island flag. What do the flags symbols and colours represent?
- For a more in depth study on Flags refer to BtN's Flag debate story and teacher resource.
- Ask students to draw a map of Northern Australia including the Torres Strait region and the Papua New Guinea mainland. Mark, name and colour Murray Island and at least two other islands in the same area.
- On their maps students will use geographical terminology and include the following:
 - o Border
 - o Title
 - Identify scale
 - Orientation; identify direction
 - Identify physical features
 - Legend (key)

Biography

- As a class make a list of significant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals that have contributed
 to the development of Australian society, for example in areas such as the economy, education, science,
 the arts, sport or politics.
- For each of these individuals write down what they have achieved and how their achievements have impacted on Australian society.
- Students will construct a biography on Eddie Koiki Mabo or another significant Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander individual that has helped shaped Australia's history.

Research questions

- Who is Eddie Koiki Mabo?
- Where is he from? Find it on a map.
- What did he achieve?
- What were his challenges?
- In what ways has he impacted on Australian society?
- Why do you think Native Title is important for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples?
- How do we recognise his achievements? What does Australia do to commemorate *Mabo*?
- Create a timeline representing the history of Native
 Title in Australia. Refer to the ABC's timeline for tips.





- Once students have completed their research ask them to present their findings in an interesting way.
 - o Give a presentation on the individual's achievements
 - o Design a land rights poster
 - o Create a timeline which highlights significant events.
 - o Make a "Did you know?" for other students.
 - o Write a letter thanking them for their achievements and how it has changed Australia.

Related Research Links

National Reconciliation Week – The Mabo Decision http://www.reconciliation.org.au/getfile?id=1515&file=The+Mabo+decision.pdf

National Reconciliation Week – Let's talk Mabo http://www.reconciliation.org.au/getfile?id=1842&file=Lets+Talk+Mabo.pdf

ABC Mabo – Mabo classroom resources http://www.abc.net.au/tv/mabo/welcome/

ABC Mabo – Native Title timeline http://www.abc.net.au/tv/mabo/timeline/

National Library of Australia - Mabo's Map

http://treasure-explorer.nla.gov.au/treasure/mabos-map#original-hand-drawn-maps-and-diagrams-various-portions-land-boundary-markers-etc-

Screen Australia Digital Learning – Mabo: The Native Title Revolution http://www.mabonativetitle.com/home.shtml

Australian Museum – Mer (Murray Island) and its People in 1907 http://australianmuseum.net.au/Mer-Murray-Island-and-its-People-in-1907

